

Agenda Item Number 7.

Annual Report on MPO Activities

Action Recommended: None. Information Only.

Issue Summary:

At its December, 2002 meeting, MPC formally accepted delegation from the LCOG Board of the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) policy making responsibilities. This action, together with the MPO's redesignation to Transportation Management Area status, creates a locally controlled partnership more effective and efficient in meeting federal requirements and guiding the region toward achieving its transportation goals.

As part of that resolution, the LCOG Board included a provision that:

“the Metropolitan Policy Committee shall provide a report to the Board of Directors at least annually on performance of its Metropolitan Planning Organization duties, including the results of any federal certification review;”

As requested by the Board, this memo provides a summary of the MPO's accomplishments Since November 2004.

Accomplishments over the Past Year (Since November 2004)

The primary purpose of the MPO is to provide for a continuing, cooperative, and comprehensive transportation planning process within the Central Lane metropolitan area. This process consists fundamentally of 5 core products adopted by MPC:

- 20-year Financially Constrained Regional Transportation Plan (RTP)
- 3-5 year Financially Constrained Metropolitan Transportation Improvement Program (MTIP)
- Air Quality Conformity Determinations as needed to support RTP and MTIP
- Public Involvement Plan
- Annual Work Program

Timely development and adoption of these products ensures that federal and state funds continue to flow to projects vital to the region's economic development and quality of life. The accomplishments listed below have been completed by MPC since its last report to the LCOG Board (December 2004) . A description of each of these accomplishments is provided following the list.

1. Appointment and Operation of the MPO Citizen Advisory Committee
2. Review and Adoption of 2004 Regional Transportation Plan (RTP)
3. Successful defense of RTP adoption in Land Use Board of Appeals (LUBA) challenge
4. Allocation of Surface Transportation Program – Urban (STP-U) Funds
5. Facilitated Regional Project Coordination with I-105 preservation project
6. Formation of the Oregon MPO Consortium (OMPOC) and approval of MPO legislative priorities
7. Began work on Franklin/I-5 System Planning effort
8. Adopted Unified Planning Work Program
9. Responded to State proposals for additional freight route designations
10. Amended RTP and Metropolitan Transportation Improvement Program (MTIP) periodically to allow various projects to proceed
11. Approved Air Quality Conformity Determinations for RTP and MTIP amendments
12. Heard and Discussed Reports on:
 - a. Oregon Transportation Plan Update
 - b. Federal Transportation Bill Reauthorization and report from Congressman DeFazio's office on transportation earmarks for the area
 - c. Oregon's Legislative session
13. Began work to establish project priorities for the FY08-011 State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP)

1. Appointment and Operation of the MPO Citizen Advisory Committee (CAC) - MPC appointed 12 citizens to an MPO Citizen Advisory Committee which began operation in March 2005. A joint meeting of the CAC and MPC was held in July 2005. The CAC is expected to provide MPC and the MPO process with a plan for improvement of the MPO's public involvement process as well as providing MPC with input on specific issues.

2. Update of Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) – MPC adopted an update to the RTP on December 9th 2004. The scope of the update was limited to three primary elements:
- o extension of the planning horizon from 2021 to 2025;
 - o expansion of the RTP study area to reflect the expansion of the MPO boundary as defined by federal regulations as a result of the 2000 census (most significantly, this expansion resulted in the inclusion of the city of Coburg within the MPO).
 - o Updating the financial constraint analysis, including adjusting project lists to delete projects that have been completed or are no longer planned, to include projects that have arisen since the last adoption of the RTP or are planned within the newly expanded planning horizon years, updating cost estimates for all projects, and updating revenue forecasts.

The adopted RTP includes approximately \$2.1 Billion in investments reflecting the operation, maintenance, preservation (\$1.3 Billion) and system improvements (\$800 Million) needed to sustain the region's transportation system over the next 20 years.

3. Successful defense of RTP adoption in Land Use Board of Appeals (LUBA) challenge
The December 2004 RTP adoption was challenged at LUBA by Friends of Eugene. The appellants contended that the MPO plan adoption was a land use action and therefore subject to the state's land use regulations and procedures. LUBA dismissed the appeal for lack of jurisdiction. LUBA concluded that they lacked jurisdiction because the adoption of the RTP update by MPC did not concern the application of statewide planning goals, comprehensive plan provisions or land use regulations and, therefore, was not a land use decision under ORS 197.015(10).
4. Allocation of Surface Transportation Program – Urban (STP-U) Funds
The MPO annually receives approximately \$3.1 million in federal funds that can be allocated at MPC's discretion for a flexible range of purposes. MPC made a supplemental allocation of \$1.3 million to a range of activities including preservation, modernization, Transportation Demand Management, and planning projects.
5. Facilitated Regional Project Coordination with I-105 Preservation Project - Between FY05 and FY07, the region is expected to see several transportation improvements made. In particular, the Interstate-105 preservation project had a significant impact on regional travel during the period of construction. In order to minimize the impacts of multiple projects on regional travel, MPC had directed staff to coordinate the improvements so that improvements on facilities that might serve as alternate routes to the I-105 project would proceed in a manner that did not conflict with periods when portions of I-105 were closed to traffic. This coordination effort included the development of the Congestion Mitigation Program and the www.keepusmoving.info website. An evaluation of the outreach effort for the I-105 project is currently under development.
6. Formation of the Oregon MPO Consortium (OMPOC) - After a series of meetings among the state's six MPOs, the MPOs decided to form a Consortium to work in partnership to advance interests common to the MPOs. In particular, the policy officials discussed development of both a legislative and administrative agenda. MPC reviewed and approved OMPOC bylaws and contributed to the development of a set of OMPOC legislative priorities.
7. Began work on Franklin/I-5 System Planning effort – ODOT is currently facilitating a transportation system planning effort to determine the community interest and technical feasibility for a full interchange at Franklin/I-5. This effort is envisioned as a high-level community dialogue and decision process. The process includes technical work such as conceptual design evaluation and preliminary traffic and environmental analysis, as well as an open public process with appointed and elected officials, citizens, and stakeholder groups. The outcome is anticipated as a “thumbs up” or “thumbs down” decision to proceed with more detailed analysis that supports amendments to local plans as well as the MPO's RTP.

8. Adopted Unified Planning Work Program - as required, MPC adopted the MPO's work program for FY06 at its March 2005 meeting. One of the fundamental products of the MPO process is the development of an annual UPWP. The UPWP details the work elements to be accomplished in a given fiscal year. These activities allow the MPO to maintain compliance with federal regulations related to the core functions listed below:
- maintaining the transportation model and the underlying GIS and demographic data,
 - updating the regional transportation plan,
 - updating the Transportation Improvement Program, development of revenue forecasts, allocating MPO discretionary STP funds, and providing ODOT with MPO STIP priorities,
 - conducting air quality conformity determinations and other air quality planning needs (the MPO is the cognizant local agency for attainment of federal Carbon Monoxide standards),
 - maintaining a public involvement program,
 - providing technical assistance to local agencies, consultants, and developers
 - providing staff support for MPC, TPC, the LCOG Board and various ad-hoc groups as needed
 - Coordination with federal, state and local agencies regarding regional transportation issues
9. Responded to State proposals for additional freight route designations - ODOT's Freight Route Analysis Project resulted in a proposal for the addition of a freight route designation to several state facilities within the MPO area. As part of the outreach for the project, MPC provided comment requesting an extension of the public review period. As a result of MPC's comments and those of other agencies, ODOT extended the review period and the amount of time before OTC would be scheduled to take action on the proposal. At its March 2005 meeting, MPC endorsed a letter of comment sent to ODOT with the following recommendations:
1. Support designation of the limited access portions of the proposed designations.
 2. Support designation of Highway 99 from Beltline Highway to Airport Road.
 3. Support designation of West 11th from Beltline to its junction with Highway 126 West.
10. Amended RTP and Metropolitan Transportation Improvement Program (MTIP) periodically to allow various projects to proceed - in order to keep the MTIP current, MPC adopted periodic amendments to the RTP and MTIP to allow various projects to proceed through project development and on to construction.
11. Approved Air Quality Conformity Determinations for RTP and MTIP amendments - Updates and amendments to either the regional transportation plan or the Metropolitan transportation improvement program must be shown to meet national air quality standards. MPC approved several air quality conformity determinations in

conjunction with its approval of various updates and amendments to the plan and improvement program.

12. Heard and Discussed Reports on:

- a. Oregon Transportation Plan Update
- b. Federal transportation bill reauthorization and report from Congressman DeFazio's office on transportation earmarks for the area
- c. Oregon's legislative session

13. Began work to establish project priorities for the FY08-11 State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) Projects - on behalf of the MPO, MPC is required to establish the region's project priorities for the State Transportation Improvement Program. MPC has begun work to establish priorities for the FY 08-11 STIP.

Upcoming Work Activities

In addition to the ongoing tasks (amendments to the MTIP, adoption of the Unified Planning Work Program, etc.) it is anticipated that the MPO's work over the next year will focus on the following:

- An update to the RTP adding additional years to the planning horizon
- Completion of the development of alternative mobility standards for state facilities
- An update to the MTIP to incorporate results of the Transportation Reauthorization process at the federal level. This would include MPC's allocation of STP-Urban funds which come to the region.
- Continued development of the Citizen Advisory Committee
- Preparation for next federal triennial certification review
- Development of Public Involvement Plan
- Preparation of Environmental Justice Report
- Participation on the Oregon MPO Consortium
- Completion of the air quality Limited Maintenance Plan